Council Proceedings.

Council Chamber, February 13th, 1883.

The City Council met last night in the Council Chamber. In the absence of Mayor Meredith, Ald. Birrell was called to the chair, there being present Ald. Labatt, Hunt, O'Meara, Cowan, Skinner, Browne, Stringer, Moore, Boyd, Becher.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS.

From lessees in Covent Garden Bazaar, asking that the ventilators be repaired. No. 3, with power.

From Mrs. Mary Mackey, asking for remission of back taxes. No. 1.

From Mr. James Taylor, in reference to his bondsmen. No. 1.

From Geo. Holman, against street watering tax. No. 3.

From Mrs. Portwood, asking remission of taxes. No. 1.

From R. Berry and other auctioneers, asking that certain restrictions be removed which prohibits them from selling on the market before one o'clock in the day. No. 3.

ACCOUNTS.

From D. Regan, for boots, $3.50. No. 1.

BY-LAWS.

A by-law was read three times and passed, appointing James Marshall chimney-sweep for the southern part of the city, and W. H. Moorhead for the northern part.

A by-law was read repealing by-law 59, which provides for the election of city officials by ballot.

On the second reading Ald. Cowan moved, seconded by Ald. Skinner, that the by-law be read a second time six months hence.

Ald. Hunt moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. O'Meara, that the by-law be now read a second time.

The yeas and nays were called for as follows:—

Yeas—Labatt, Hunt, O'Meara, Moore, Becher, Birrell. Nays—Cowan, Skinner, Browne, Stringer, Boyd.

The by-law was then read a second and third time and passed.

NUMBER THREE.

Ald. Hunt reported from No 3 Committee as follows:—(1) That accounts amounting to $694.98 be paid; (2) That the cordwood now lying in the Hospital yard, charged to the Relief account, be transferred to the Hospital account; (3) Your committee having called for tenders for the proposed additions to the City Hospital, beg to recommend the following for your acceptance:—Geo. T. Dodd, carpentering and joining work, $2,187; Geo. Slade, plastering, $340; Luney & Parsons, brick and stone work, $1,625; H. Colerick, painting, $170; plumbing, say, $278. Total $4,600; (4) Relief—That accounts amounting $725.21 be paid; (5) that the petition of the Women's Refuge and Infants' Home for a grant of $10 per month for support of two infants be granted; (6) that the petition of A. Cleghorn and others respecting the purchase of an "ambulance wagon," to be used in connection with the city Hospital be complied with, and that the chairman of this committee be empowered to purchase the same; (7) that the petition of R. Berry and others be referred to the Council; (8) Fire, water and gas—that accounts amounting to $307.09 be paid; (9) Markets—that Annie Throgmorton be relieved of stall No. 12 in the Market Bazaar, she being unable to pay the rent through illness; (10) that Joseph M. Wilson, Market Clerk, be granted the sum of $10 for extra services during the month of January; (11) your committee beg to report the receipts from the weigh scales from the 3rd to the 31st January, being $103.79; (12) your committee would recommend to the Council the advisability of calling for tenders for the supply of wood for relief purposes, the present contract having expired; (13) that the Council be recommended to accept the terms offered by the County Council of Middlesex for the admission of paupers to the County Poor House at Strathroy on the same conditions as those received from the county of Lambton.

Ald. Birrell in the chair.

The report was committed.

First and second clauses passed.

On the third clause Ald. Hunt explained that the proposed additions to the City Hospital would furnish accommodation for 100 additional patients. He moved the adoption of the clause, seconded by Ald. Boyd.

Ald. Becher moved that the clause be referred back to the Committee with instructions to prepare plans for a less expensive building.

Ald. Skinner seconded.

Lost.

The clause was adopted.

The yeas and nays were called for as follows:—

Yeas— Labatt, Hunt, Hyman, Cowan, Brown, Stringer, Moore, Boyd.

Nays—O'Meara, Skinner, Becher.

Clauses 4, 5 and 6 passed.

On the 7th clause Ald. Cowan moved, seconded by Ald. Boyd, that the auctioneers be allowed to [illegible] Market Square at 11 o'clock a.m.

Ald. Hyman moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. Browne, that the clause be referred back to the Committee, so that a recommendation might be made. Carried.

Clauses 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 passed.

The Council resumed, and the report was adopted as amended.

NUMBER TWO.

Ald. Browne (Chairman), reported from this Committee as follows:—(1) That the following accounts be paid:—Commissioners' pay roll, $70.14; Henry Lockwood, oak plank, $159.06; total, $229.20; (2) that tenders have been called for cobble stone and only one tender was received, namely, from William Anthistle, at $2.50 per cord, which was accepted; (3) that your Committee cannot too strongly recommend the purchase of a three-wheeled street sweeper (as shown in a circular from W. Smith & Sons. Eng.) believing that it would be a great saving to the city, and we would respectfully ask the privilege of procuring the same at once.

The report was taken up clause by clause, and adopted.

NUMBER ONE.

Ald. Hyman (Chairman) reported from this committee as follows:—(1) that accounts amounting to $2,841.28 be paid; (2) that the petitions of Mary Connolly, Ann Brandon and Mrs. Kelly, for remission of taxes, be granted; (3) that the petition of Job Cook, for remission of sewer rate, be filed; (4) that the petition of J. J. Gauld, for remission of income tax for 1882, be filed; (5) that the petition of Mrs. Hillier, for remission of taxes, be filed; (6) that your committee be requested to submit the by-law to the Council "for establishing a free library with the assent of the electors," under the "Free Libraries Act of 1882;" (7) that the account of Arthur Wallace be not entertained (see Consolidated By-laws 357); (8) that the petition of Mrs. Stanfield, to have her taxes for 1881 charged against land, be granted; (9) that the circular of Col. Otter, for subscription to Ontario Rifle Association, be filed; (10) that the system of free water service be discontinued on and after the 1st day of May next, and that the Water Commissioners be requested to notify the public to that effect; (11) your Committee beg to submit the January report of the Police Court Clerk; (12) that Ald. Becher countersign cheques in the absence of the Mayor and the Chairman of No. 1 Committee; (13) that the petition of the Rev. J. A. Gallmer, for exemption from taxation for 1882, be filed.

The report was taken up clause by clause, and the first four clauses passed without discussion.

On the 5th clause Ald. Boyd moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. Moore, that half of Mrs. Hillier's taxes be remitted. Lost. Clause adopted.

Clauses 6, 7, 8 and 9 passed.

On the 10th clause Ald. Cowan moved in amendment, that the time for putting in free water services be extended to the 1st November, seconded by Ald. Stringer.

Ald. Moore moved in further amendment, seconded by Ald. Skinner, that the time be extended to 1st July, 1883.

The amendment of Ald. Cowan was carried.

Yeas—O'Meara, Cowan, Browne, Stringer, Moore, Boyd, Skinner.

Nays—Hyman, Hunt, Becher and Labatt.

Clauses 11 and 12 adopted.

THE DEBENTURE BY-LAW.

Ald. Skinner moved his motion, of which he had previously given notice, as follows, seconded by Ald. Browne:—That a by-law be submitted to the ratepayers on the 27th of February, 1883, to ratify the issuing of debentures to the amount of $175,000 for city purposes.

Ald. Browne, Stringer, Boyd and Cowan supported the motion.

Ald. O'Meara spoke against the motion, which was lost, and the yeas and nays were recorded as follows:—

Yeas—Cowan, Skinner, Browne, Stringer, Boyd.

Nays—Labatt, Hunt, Hyman, O'Meara, Moore, Becher.

POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

Ald. Cowan moved, seconded by Ald. Skinner, that this Council petition the Local Legislature at its next session to amend the Municipal Institutions Act regarding the appointment and functions of Police Commissioners; (2) we recommend that the Board of Police Commissioners consist of the Mayor of the corporation, the Police Magistrate, the County Court Judge, and two members of the City Council, one to be appointed by the Council and one to be named by the Mayor, at the first meeting of the Council, in January, after the municipal elections of each year; (3) that the power of the Police Commissioners be restricted so far as the expenditure of money is concerned, inasmuch as the Commissioners are only to have the right to recommend the expenditure, leaving the confirmation thereof to be dealt with by the Council.

The resolution was carried.

Council adjourned for three weeks.